



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., Governor
STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
J. ERIC DIETZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-3980*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2006

IDHS EXHIBITS SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSET

Edinburgh, IN – Today, the public gathered alongside first responders at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center for the department's annual open house at the center. The event, which includes search and rescue demonstrations, highlights a key IDHS asset.

"IDHS wants Indiana's first responder community and the public to be aware and proud of this top notch search and rescue training facility we are fortunate to have," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "Use of this facility continues to expand as more and more search and rescue personnel from around the nation recognize it as first rate and willingly travel long distances to take advantage of the opportunity to attend classroom instruction and hands-on training at the same location."

IDHS also honored individuals who made important contributions to the center over the past year in assisting with K-9 training and upgrading the facility. Those who received special recognition for assisting with K-9 training included Miranda Bowling (youth volunteer, Seymour), Lieutenant James Simpson (Indiana Department of Corrections), Gail Crammer (Tri-state Search and Rescue), and Donna Randolph (Midwest Search Dogs). Those who received special recognition for assisting with upgrading the training center included Master Sergeant Clifford Bowling (Indiana National Guard), William Ochsner (Indiana National Guard), Mark McIntyre and the International Union of Printers and Allied Trades (Atterbury Job Corps), and Arie and Andrew Griffioen (Boy Scout Troop 220, Waldron).

According to Lillian Hardy, the center's manager, "We are grateful for the volunteer efforts of these individuals. With only a small staff on-site, thanks to their support we are able to continue to expand and serve a growing search and rescue community."

-more-

Add One
IDHS Exhibits Search and Rescue Asset
September 30, 2006

The training center, located on the grounds of Camp Atterbury, offers the most current emergency response search and rescue training opportunities in the nation for civilian and government organizations, including the military. The center includes a K-9 agility field and rubble piles, where participants can practice in K-9 related search techniques, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response training, and a new tracking pit.

Courses offered include K-9 courses in disaster search, land and water cadaver detection, building and area search techniques, trailing, and K-9 first aid. Other non- K-9 courses include ground search and rescue techniques, boater and helicopter safety for emergency personnel, and tracking and sign cutting.

Originally constructed in 1990, the facility underwent renovations and rededication in 2001 as the Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Academy, in recognition of Ms. Hulman George's contributions to caring for animals affected by disasters. For more information on the academy, visit www.in.gov/dhs or call 800-200-7424.

###

Media Contact:
Pam Bright, Director, IDHS Public Information & Outreach
317-232-6632 / 317-502-5564(mobile)